

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A manipulative toy configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having an outer surface and a front, back and sides and further having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below the outer surface of said body and bounded on the an upper portion thereof by an arcuate shoulder ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendage corresponding to said planar surface on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body at said respective planar surfaces, wherein said shoulder ridge does not extend completely around said planar surface thereby exposing a portion of said planar surface on said body of sufficient width to allow said appendage to be slid up into said shoulder ridge, and wherein said shoulder ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said ~~appendage~~ appendages attached to said body; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said ~~appendage~~ appendages relative to said body.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body comprises a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said ~~appendage~~ appendages.

3. (ORIGINAL) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 2, wherein said complementary magnetic elements are Nd-Fe-B magnets.

4. (AMENDED) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 3, wherein said means for limiting movement comprises a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said appendage is attached to said body.

5. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 4, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

6. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein said ribbed elements are approximately .75 millimeters wide and 0.75 millimeters deep, and are 24 in number.

7. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein the diameter of said circular configuration of said ribbed elements is approximately 9.75 millimeters.

8. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 7, wherein said planar surfaces are roughly circular in area.

9. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 8, wherein the diameter of said planar surface on said body is approximately 21 millimeters, and the diameter of said planar surface on said appendage is approximately 19 millimeters.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 9, wherein said ribbed element disposed on said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said ~~appendage~~ appendages, and wherein said ribbed element disposed on said body is beveled and recessed below said planar surface on said body such that said beveled ribbed elements are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ribbed elements to frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are attached to said body.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said ridge is configured so as to resemble a shoulder of said animal such that attachment of said leg or wing to said appendage is lifelike in appearance.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein at least one appendage and said body are composed of a rigid plastic material.

14. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said body and said at least one appendage are molded to simulate an animal.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A manipulative toy comprising:
a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below the outer surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate shoulder ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one roughly circular planar surface disposed at an ~~the~~ end thereof, said planar surface on said ~~appendage~~ appendages corresponding to said planar surface on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said ~~at least one appendage~~ appendages for removably attaching said ~~appendage~~ appendages to said body at said respective planar surfaces,

said means comprising a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said ~~appendage~~ appendages, wherein said shoulder ridge does not extend completely around said planar surface thereby exposing a portion of said planar surface on said body of sufficient width to allow said appendage to be slid up into said shoulder ridge, and wherein said shoulder ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendage attached to said body; and

means for limiting ~~the~~ rotational and linear movement of said appendage relative to said body, said means comprising a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said appendage is attached to said body, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said ribbed elements disposed on said ~~appendage~~ appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said ~~appendage~~ appendages, and wherein said ribbed elements disposed on said body are beveled and recessed below said planar surface of said body such that said beveled ribbed elements are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ribbed elements to frictionally engage each other when said ~~appendage is~~ appendages are attached to said body.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said body includes an outer surface and wherein said planar surface on said body is recessed below the outer surface of said body, said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a ridge.

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for inspiring imagination and creativity using manipulative toys formed in the shape of various animals, said method comprising the steps of:
providing at least two manipulative toys configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings, each comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below the an outer surface of said body and bounded on the an upper portion thereof by an arcuate shoulder ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendage corresponding to said planar surface

on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said at least one appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at said ~~respective~~ planar surfaces, wherein said shoulder ridge does not extend completely around said planar surface thereby exposing a portion of said planar surface on said body of sufficient width to allow said appendage to be slid up into said shoulder ridge, and wherein said shoulder ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendage attached to said body; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said appendage relative to said body; and

interchanging said appendages from said toys so as to create one or more fanciful creatures.